

Overdose Prevention Centers: Location and Access

As Burlington decides where to place a potential overdose prevention center, it is important that the voices of people who use drugs and the community are taken into consideration. ***For an OPC to be effective, it has to be used and easy to access for the population at risk.***

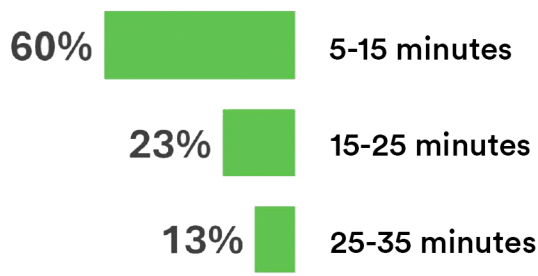


Prior research has shown that travel and wait times are barriers to using an OPC, in addition to a lack of privacy and police presence. ^{1,2}

Past work has shown that few would travel more than 30 minutes to use an OPC. Wait times to use the facility would also play a role because of concerns of withdrawal sickness. ^{2,3}

People with living experience in Burlington want a OPC close to them. So do other community members.

Time PWLE are willing to travel to access an OPC:



68% of PWLE responded that they would be likely or very likely to use a **free shuttle** if it were offered between downtown and the location of the OPC.

52%

of community members said that accessibility for clients should be factored in when choosing a location

Some community members (20%) raised opposition based on the idea that the OPC would attract people from out of area. But data and research shows people do not want to travel long distances to use an OPC.

As part of this, some believe that it will attract dealers to the area. However, past research shows that overdose prevention centers do not meaningfully increase drug use in the community. **In fact, research shows there have been reductions in public drug use.**

Where will an OPC be located? Turn the page.

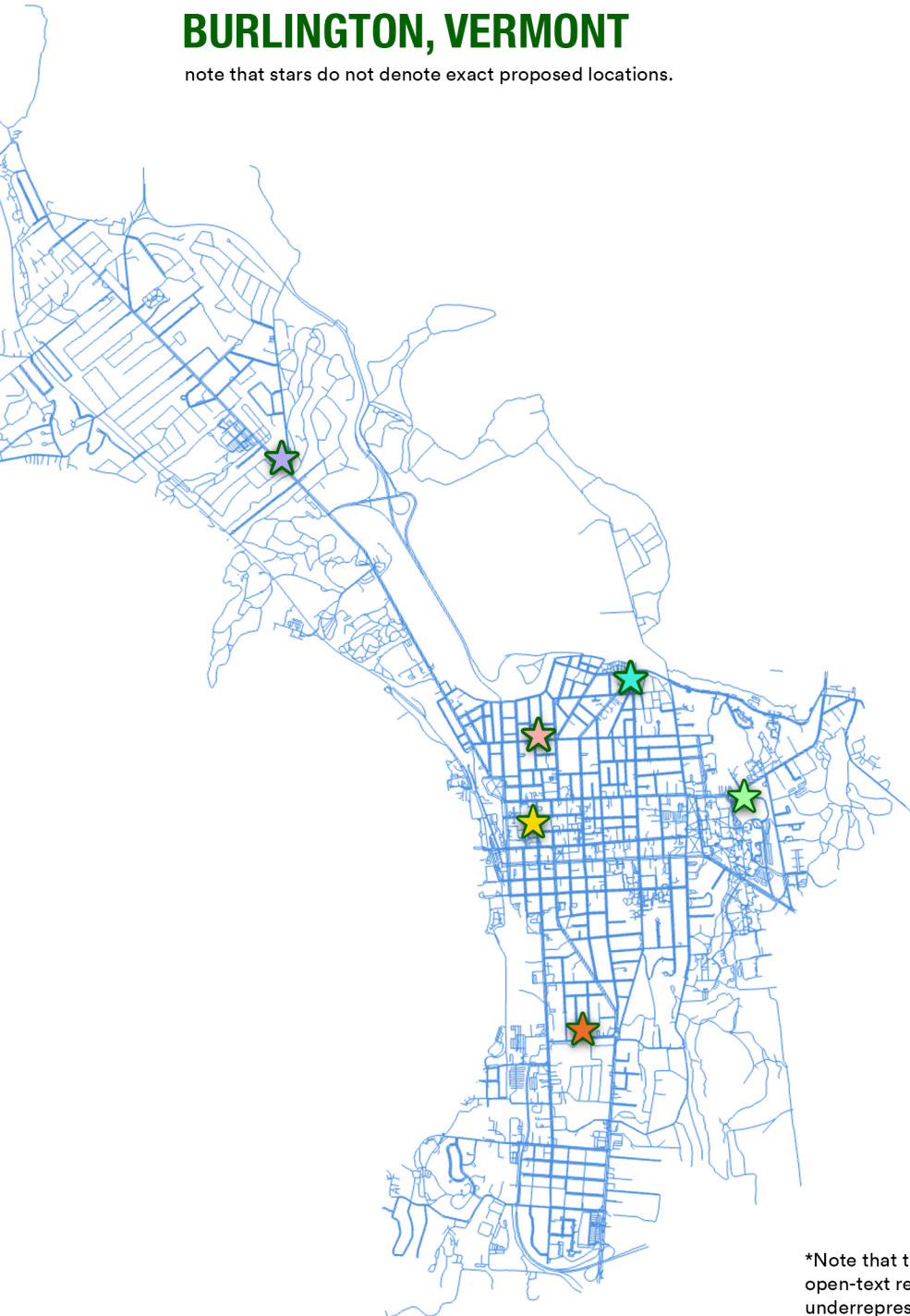


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We asked the community, including people with living experience where an OPC should be located. This is what we heard.

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

note that stars do not denote exact proposed locations.



HIGHEST RANKED

Downtown Burlington

95.6% of PWLE said they were likely to use OPC here.

43% of community members said this area would be the most effective

Old North End

85.4% of PWLE said they were likely to use OPC here.

25% of community members said this area would be the most effective

Near Riverside/Intervale

80.9% of PWLE said they were likely to use OPC here.

29% of community members said this area would be the most effective

New North End

60.4% of PWLE said they were likely to use OPC here.

6% of community members said this area would be the most effective

South End

43.8% of PWLE said they were likely to use OPC here.

11% of community members said this area would be the most effective

East End/Hospital

4% of community members said this area would be the most effective*

*Note that the 4% of respondents who selected Hospital/East End did so via open-text responses rather than a predefined option, which likely underrepresents actual interest in this location.